

STATE OF WISCONSIN

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Mark Miller
Representative Mark Pocan

Date: December 2, 2009

Re: Department of Health Services Report on Milwaukee County
Income Maintenance Programs

Attached is a report on Milwaukee County income maintenance programs from the Department of Health Services, pursuant to Section 9122(5x) of 2009 Act 28.

The Department of Health Services must provide to the Joint Committee on Finance copies of all reports documenting its management of the Milwaukee County income maintenance programs that the Department is required to provide to the plaintiffs in the litigation known as West v. Timberlake, under the settlement agreement entered into on April 16, 2009.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachments

MM:MP;jm



Jim Doyle
Governor

Karen E. Timberlake
Secretary

State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

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December 1, 2009

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BY: St. Finance

Senator Mark Miller, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 317 East State Capitol
Madison WI 53702

Representative Mark Pocan, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East State Capitol
Madison WI 53703

Dear Senator Miller and Representative Pocan:

Section 9122(5x) of 2009 Act 28 requires the Department of Health Services to provide the Joint Committee on Finance copies of all reports documenting its management of the Milwaukee County income maintenance programs that the Department is required to provide to the plaintiffs in the litigation known as *West v. Timberlake*, under a settlement agreement entered into on April 16, 2009.

Attached is the second report provided to plaintiffs, which was transmitted on November 30, 2009. Please contact me at 266-1404 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Diane Welsh
Chief Legal Counsel



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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November 30, 2009

Ms. Anne L. DeLeo, Esq.
Nelson, Irvings & Waeffler SC
2675 N Mayfair Rd Ste 420
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-1305
VIA FACSIMILE (414) 777-0140 and U.S. MAIL

Re: *West et al. v. Timberlake, et al.*
Case No. 08-CV-670 (E.D. Wis.)

Dear Ms. DeLeo:

Pursuant to Section III.A. of the "Settlement Agreement Between All Plaintiffs and Defendants Karen Timberlake and Jason Helgersen" in the above-referenced case, we are providing you with this letter to stand as the State Defendants' transition progress report for November 2009.

1. The Department of Health Services ("DHS" or "Department") is actively engaged in the transition to the Department handling income maintenance functions in Milwaukee County. The transition is going smoothly and is on schedule.
2. The State Legislature passed, and Governor Doyle signed, Act 15, which establishes that DHS will create a Milwaukee Enrollment Services Unit utilizing both county workers and state staff. The budget bill has also been passed and signed to provide funding for the operation of these functions.
3. The Department has created the Community Advisory Group to gather input from stakeholders and Milwaukee community leaders to guide the transition and operation of the Milwaukee Enrollment Services Unit. The group has met twice.
4. The Department conducted additional outreach about the transition through a series of town hall meetings in Milwaukee.

5. The Department has had regular meetings with Milwaukee County management and with Council 48 to help insure a smooth transition to state operation. Two Memoranda of Understanding between DHS and Council 48 have been signed to set forth terms of the labor-management relationship.
6. The Department began handling all ACCESS applications for residents of Milwaukee County on May 1, 2009.
7. The Call/Change Center became operational on July 1, 2009, as planned. The Department hired staff and has identified county staff for assignment. The Department has conducted trainings. The Call/Change Center staff answers all questions, general and case-specific, from members and the public, about the IM programs and Wisconsin Shares eligibility. The Center processes all changes, including verification processing, reported via telephone, mail, fax or through ACCESS "Report My Changes." The Department established a new phone number for the Call/Change Center: (888) 947-6583. Information has been developed for members, see e.g., <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/pdf/p-00087.pdf>.
8. Effective September 15, 2009 the Call/Change Center began processing all Six Month Report Forms (SMRFs),
9. Effective September 15, 2009 the Department began handling FoodShare EBT vault card issuance, and the distribution of mail to homeless persons at 1220 W. Vliet Street.
10. Effective October 19, 2009 the Call/Change Center began processing all mail-in applications and assumed responsibility for the confidential caseload.
11. Effective October 19, 2009 the Department began handling all Milwaukee County IM Related fair hearing duties.
12. The Division of Hearings and Appeals has reported a significant decrease in the number of Income Maintenance inquiries and appeals coming from Milwaukee County since the Department began taking over the caseload.
13. The Department will be housed at three sites beginning January 1, 2010. They are the two current sites of 7630 W. Mill Road, 6091 N Teutonia Avenue, plus leased space at 1220 W. Vliet Street.
14. The Department is in the process of procuring a permanent space for the Enrollment Services Unit.

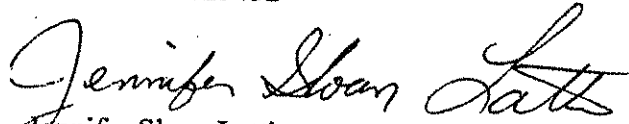
Anne DeLeo
November 30, 2009
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We can assure that the Department remains on schedule to complete the transition by January 1, 2010.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Kilpatrick
Assistant Attorney General
State Bar #1025452



Jennifer Sloan Lattis
Assistant Attorney General
State Bar #1000387

SCK